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COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND DECORATION

The Mayor's Committee on National Defense

HALL OF RECORDS
NEW YORK

[October, 1918]

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COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND DECORATION

This committee was organized for the purpose of developing the field of art in connection with the war, where the services of artists, architects, sculptors and those practising the allied arts are employed.

A Bureau of Information has been established to advise and direct those seeking to apply their talents to work connected with the war. No group of men in the country has arisen to the occasion in a finer spirit and none have rendered a more notable service to the country. Here may be obtained accurate and official information concerning the designing of pictorial placards for government purposes, cartoons, landscape targets, pictorial records of America's war activities, military and naval camouflage, decorations for Liberty Loan and other purposes, as well as where sculptors and architects are needed. A leaflet containing suggestions and information has been prepared, for gratuitous distribution.

A Division of Exhibitions has been formed to further the cause of pictorial propaganda. The British government is fully alive to the value of such exhibitions and has sent two exhibitions to this country, one of lithographs and one of paintings, besides many photographs. The lithographs have thrice been shown under the aus-

pices of this committee. An exhibition designed to make known the extent of our war preparations, military, naval and industrious, is now in active preparation and will be shown in many parts of the country. This exhibition will also minister to the morale of our people and that of our allies; it will, in addition, since the standard of artistic excellence will be high, do its part in raising the standard of art appreciation in this country. Another exhibition planned is of French and British war posters and other lithographs; another is an Allied War Salon. A collection of 125 colored facsimiles of cartoons by Raemaekers is now being shown in the various cantonments. In arranging these exhibitions the Committee will coöperate with the Division of Pictorial Publicity of the Committee on Public Information, as well as with the American Federation of Arts. Mr. C. D. Gibson is chairman of the Division of Pictorial Publicity and Mr. A. E. Gallatin is chairman of their committee on exhibitions. Mr. Duncan Phillips is on the committee on exhibitions of the American Federation of Arts. Messrs. Gibson, Gallatin and Phillips are all members of the committee on Arts and Decoration.

The Committee on Arts and Decoration assisted in the artistic censoring of the historic floats, banners and costumes appearing in the great Independence Day Pageant-Parade held in New York in 1918. The Advisory

Art Committee of the Liberty Loan Committee has asked for the closest coöperation between the two committees. These are but two examples of the wide and useful scope of this committee in coördinating art work in so far as it affects the community.

COMMITTEE ON ARTS AND DECORATION

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LLOYD WARREN, *Vice-Chairman*

BUREAU OF INFORMATION

EDWARD P. GASTON, *Secretary*

DIVISION OF EXHIBITIONS

DUNCAN PHILLIPS

AUGUSTUS V. TACK

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Suggestions and information for Artists, Architects, Sculptors, and those practicing the Allied Arts desiring to apply their knowledge to War Work

Prepared by A. E. Gallatin, Chairman, Committee on Arts and Decoration of The Mayor's Committee on National Defense, Hall of Records, New York

[September, 1918]

Artists

1. Posters

Painters and illustrators wishing to design posters and other pictorial placards to be used by the Government for patriotic purposes should apply to the Division of Pictorial Publicity of the Committee on Public Information, at 200 Fifth Avenue, New York. Charles Dana Gibson is chairman and F. D. Casey is vice chairman and secretary. Drawings and paintings, which must be offered gratuitously, are required for Liberty Loan and War Savings Stamps drives, to urge conservation of food and coal, to speed up shipbuilding, for recruiting, and various Red Cross purposes. Poster artists may also apply to the Art War Relief, 661 Fifth Avenue, New York. Artists and illustrators possessing a knowledge of naval matters should apply to the U. S. Navy Publicity Bureau, at 318 West 39th Street, New York.

2. Cartoons

Never before has the poster artist enjoyed such a golden opportunity; this is also true of the cartoonist. It has been said of Raemaekers that "He more than any other individual, has made intensely clear to the people the single issue upon which the war is joined. More than cartoonist, he is teacher and preacher, with a vision, faith, and intensity of a St. Francis, a Luther, or a Joan of Arc. . . . The pencil in his hands becomes an avenging sword, because by it millions of people have been aroused to a clear cut realization of the fact that the issue of this war is no less than Slavery and Autocracy versus Freedom and Democracy. . . . No oration, no literature, no art, has brought the real meaning of the war home so convincingly as these cartoons."

3. Designation Targets

Designation, or landscape, targets are used for class room instruction. They should depict typical French rural scenery and should be painted in clear and bright colors. The sizes vary from 3 by 6 feet to 5 by 12 feet. These landscapes are used to visualize the country, for panoramic sketching, for working out problems of offense and defense, for target designation according to the clock face method in machine gun, artillery and rifle practice, and for other purposes. Further infor-

mation may be obtained from Mrs. H. Van Buren Magonigle, Chairman of Painters' Committee, Art War Relief, 661 Fifth Avenue, New York.

4. Record of America's Activities

Many illustrators and painters have been making pictorial records of America's military, naval and industrial activities. These are shown throughout the country, as well as being reproduced in the press, and serve, as only pictorial publicity and propaganda can, to acquaint our people and those of our allies with the extent and magnitude of our preparations, thus strengthening their morale. Eight illustrators, commissioned captains in the Engineers' Reserve Corps of the army, are now in France depicting our activities; their drawings should form a very valuable historical record.

Architects

Architects desiring to engage in Government work should apply to Otto Eidlitz, Director of Bureau of Industrial Housing and Transportation, Department of Labor, Washington.

Sculptors

Many sculptors have entered the Camouflage unit (40th Engineers). Others are designing memorials, medals which are sold for the benefit of the Red Cross and other charities, and Congressional Medals. The services of sculptors have not as yet been required by the Medical Corps in this country; it is understood that later on they probably will be. At a later date application should be made to the Surgeon General, War Department, Washington. In England many sculptors are co-operating with surgeons in facial surgery.

Military Camouflage

The Camouflage unit forms a part of the Corps of Engineers of the National Army. It is a military organization composed of artists, architects, sculptors, scene painters, sign painters, house painters, carpenters, ornamental iron workers, tinsmiths, plasterers, photographers, stage carpenters and property men. The work in general deals with the concealment of gun emplacements, trenches and sheds of military value; the screening of roads and the manufacture of materials for this purpose; the painting of roofs and large areas of canvas for the covering of ammunition storage and the like; the making of various devices and

clothing for the concealment of observers and sniper and occasionally the painting of a scenic drop. It not contemplated that there will be any expansion this service in this country. It is suggested that appl cants enlist as it is possible that they may find oppo tunity in any branch of the service to make use o their qualifications; then subsequent to being sen abroad, request transfer to the 40th Engineers (Cam ouflage). This corps is under the supervision of th Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, Washington. There will be a course in camouflage at Columbia University beginning September 30th.

Marine Camouflage

Marine camouflage is done under the direction o the Navy Department. The work is executed by th United States Shipping Board Emergency Fleet Cor poration's department of camouflage. In each distric is stationed a district camoufleur, with a corps o trained men. A school has been established by th Shipping Board for men who have already been ap pointed as camoufleurs. The quota is complete an there is a waiting list of over a thousand applicants Another school has been established at the Great Lake Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, Illinois. "Baffl painting" has taken the place of attempts to rende vessels invisible. This distorts the outlines of the shi and misleads the submarine as to the craft's size, char acter, and her course.

Decorations

The services of artists, sculptors and architects, a well as those engaged in the allied arts, are in co stant demand by committees appointed to arrange fo special decorations. H. Van Buren Magonigle is chair man of an advistory art commission chosen by th Publicity Department of the Liberty Loan Committe for New York to arrange for decorations on Fiftl Avenue and Broadway. Associated with him ar Herbert Adams, Paul Bartlett, Edwin H. Blashfiel and Charles Dana Gibson. The hundred or more floats and other decorative effects, used in the last Inde- pendence Day Pageant-Parade in New York called into service the special knowledge possessed by al professions practicing the arts and crafts. Specia decorations are frequently employed in New York o the occasion of visits from foreign missions; tho erected in honor of Viviani, Joffre and Balfour w very handsome.

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